

### **REMARKS**

Claims 17-24 and 26-28 and 30-31 are pending in this Application. By this Reply, Applicants amended claim 17 and canceled claim 26. Accordingly, claims 17-24 and 27-28 and 30-31 remain at issue following this Reply.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Finally, the Examiner allowed claims 30 and 31. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, but have made amendments as indicated by the Examiner to the objected claims to gain their allowance.

In view of the Amendments and Remarks herein, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice of same.

#### **Objected Claims**

The Examiner objected to claims 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the recitation of claim 26. Accordingly, claim 17 is now patentable as submitted (and all claims dependent thereon, i.e., claims 18-24 and 27-28, are also patentable).

#### **Allowed Claims**

The Examiner has allowed claims 30 and 31.

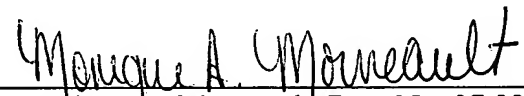
**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are now allowable, and request early notification of same. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account 23-0280. Applicants further invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below to discuss any matters pertaining to the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

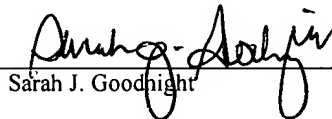
Dated: February 11, 2008

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 11, 2008.

  
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Sarah J. Goodnight

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